

NATIONAL RECORDER.

"Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

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It is with no little pleasure that we record this week the formation of an apprentices' library company in this city.

An institution of this kind has lately been established in Boston, which has begun its career with the most flattering prospects, and is supported by some of the most distinguished men of the state. Another has since been founded at Salem.

We had supposed that the design originated in Boston; but we have since understood, that when the late public school law was drafted, a provision for such a purpose was inserted and passed the lower House, but was defeated in the Senate by a member from this city.

From the respectable names already enrolled among its supporters, there can be no doubt of its prosperity; and when the purposes and the plan of the society shall be extensively known, contributions will flow in from every side. It appears to us that the success of this institution will so obviously promote the improvement and exalt the character of Philadelphia, that all are interested in supporting it.

The American Colonization Society has memorialized Congress to grant them a charter of incorporation, for the more efficient execution of their plan.

Some of the most ardent advocates for the total abolition of slavery, have rather hastily formed an opinion that this society will tend to obstruct the advancement of their benevolent designs. We have never been able to see any proof of this. It has been said that the society is principally composed of persons who hold slaves, and that we can place no confidence in their professions of good will towards the Africans. Without expressing an opinion on the last observation, we should be glad to see the society prosper, even if we knew that every member of it was actuated by a desire to perpetuate slavery: for from every consideration of the subject, we form more strongly an opinion that so far as the project succeeds it will be beneficial. It may not free us from the black population, and

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perhaps will be unable sensibly to diminish it; but it will produce much good to Africa, and will strike at the root of the slave trade, which all the legislative acts of Europe and the United States have scarcely diminished—to say nothing of the outlet which will be afforded to those few active and ardent men among the blacks, who might be induced to revenge their exclusion from the privilege of citizenship, by exciting unfriendly dispositions towards the whites.

The Hon. Mr. Lanman, senator in Congress from Connecticut, has lately been burnt in effigy on account of his vote on the Missouri question. Such uncivilized conduct would disgrace any place, but it is so contrary to the whole history of that land of steady habits, that we must suppose it to have been the work of a very few idle and turbulent boys, who must have been discountenanced immediately.

In allusion to the late pagan execution of a negro, related with so much solemn complacency in the Augusta paper, a writer in the New York American suggests to the committee for sending relief to the Savannah sufferers, to imitate the conduct of Gelo, king of Syracuse, who stipulated with the Carthaginians, when he sent them succour, that they should abolish human sacrifices.

Extract of a letter to the editors, from Circle-ville, Ohio.

You need not believe one word of the several accounts you see about silver mines, &c. lately said to be discovered in this state. They are gross impositions on an unsuspecting public. The ore pretended to have been dug, was a few silver dollars melted and then filled up mixed with other things, with a view of inducing unsuspecting people to subscribe and pay for shares into the hands of arch and arrant thieves. They will ruin many, and then be off with their booty.

The public ought to be cautioned against
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a set of swindlers, who, to give more colour to their pretended discoveries, have obtained a charter from the state for working their pretended silver mine below Zanesville on the Muskingum.

Internal Improvement.

We recommend to our readers the following essay on the plan for connecting the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi, copied from an Ohio paper, which is written by Caleb Atwater, of Circleville, who is preparing for the press a work on the state of Ohio, and has unquestionably the best means of information on the subject.

FROM THE OLIVE BRANCH.

Circleville, (O.) 29th Jan. 1820.

Sir—I send you, for insertion in your highly useful paper, a few remarks on the practicability of connecting the waters of the St. Lawrence, with those of the Mississippi. The importance of such a connexion, to the people of the United States, will be duly appreciated by every reflecting mind: but there may be made, by very short canals, in not very deep cutting, or by roads of no great length, many communications between the navigable waters of these great outlets to the ocean. Beginning on the northeast, by making a road of only nine miles in length, there may be made a good communication between Lake Erie and the Chatauque Lake, in the state of New York. This lake is the head of a navigable branch of the Allegheny river, and this road may be made for about \$9000. This portage is now used, and there is a tolerably good harbour at the proper point, for such vessels as navigate the Erie. From the enterprising character of the people in that quarter, and the interest now manifested in internal improvements, by both Pennsylvania and New York, added to a consideration of the benefits, likely to result from the completion of such a road, we cannot hesitate to believe, that such a road will be shortly made by the above mentioned states. To effect such an object, at such a trifling expense! Why has it not been undertaken already? Travelling to the west, we find another branch of the Allegheny is navigable to within 14 miles of Lake Erie, at Presque Isle. Over this portage there is a pretty good road, which is much travelled, and along which great quantities of salt, from the Onondaga springs are transported. But the harbour at Erie wants improving as well as the branch of the Allegheny which approaches so near to it. The channel into the harbour from the lake, wants deepening, and piers ought to be extended into the Erie, to prevent the mouth of the harbour from filling up with pebbles and sand, which are thrown into it, by the violence of the winds and waves, in the storms which so often agitate this inland sea. And it appears to me, that Congress might with propriety do something for a harbour, from whence Perry sailed with a fleet which conquered a whole fleet of Britain in the late war.

The next portage to the west, is between the waters of Grand river and those of the Mahoning or Big Beaver. These streams are navigable, the former from its mouth, at Fairport, 3 miles N. of Zanesville, the latter from its mouth, at the Ohio, near the town of Beaver, to within about 12 miles of each other. The intervening space is a swamp, and nearly a dead level. This has been levelled and carefully examined by the Hon. Eli Baldwin of Trumbull county, Ohio. At this point Mr. Baldwin believes the Ohio is 70 feet higher than the surface of the lake. The fall between these waters, is comparatively trifling, the cutting would be easy, and not very deep. The whole expense of a canal at this point, so as to enable boats of 12 tons to pass and repass through, eight months in the year, would not exceed \$100,000!

Another communication at even a less price, might be made between the Cuyahoga and the Big Beaver. This latter stream might be connected by both the Grand river and the Cuyahoga for the trifling sum of \$150,000. In both cases the cutting would be through a great swamp, which is quite level; the cutting is easy, and there is a great abundance of water to supply the canal, in all seasons of the year.

A few miles still to the west, and fifty miles south of Lake Erie, at Cleaveland, is a portage of eight miles in length, which connects the waters of the Cuyahoga river, with the Tuscarawas branch of the Muskingum river. This portage has been used as such, from time immemorial, by the Indians. Though it is only eight miles between these streams, where they are navigable for boats of several tons burthen, yet by cutting a canal only 12 miles, a communication may be had either through a swamp or a lake. The latter is five miles in length, and little or nothing need be done to it to make it navigable. By making a dam partly across the Cuyahoga, just below what are called the falls, and digging a canal ten feet deep, in a loose, black loam, a distance of seven miles, the waters of the last mentioned river would flow into the Tuscarawas. The Cuyahoga is three or four feet higher than the former.

Where this canal might be cut, is called the portage by the Indians, and has always been used as such. Here the Frenchmen, who at an early day travelled from Canada to the Mississippi, frequently crossed. The expenses of this canal would not exceed ten thousand dollars.

The next canal which might be made to the west of the one just mentioned, would be near Upper Sandusky, 45 or 50 miles south of Sandusky Bay, at Lower Sandusky. It is twelve miles between the navigable waters of the Scioto and Sandusky rivers. Last spring, several families from New England in boats, after traversing Lake Erie, ascended Sandusky Bay and river, to near Upper Sandusky, put their boats and effects in wagons, and transported them only eleven or twelve miles to the Little Scioto, (a branch of the Scioto) entered the river and descended safe to Columbus, the seat of government for Ohio, where they settled. The soil between these waters is a deep, fluvial alluvion, through which a canal sufficiently deep and wide might be cut for \$10,000, so as

to connect the navigable waters of these rivers. Water might be taken from Sandusky river, which is several feet higher than the Scioto, sufficient to supply the canal at all seasons. Besides, there is a never failing branch of the Sandusky, which runs in the proper direction, and which rises in a low piece of ground, on the very margin of the Scioto, a little to the north of west of the town of Delaware, Ohio. This canal would connect the waters of Lake Erie with those of the Ohio, through the centre of the state. From Lake Erie to the town of Chillicothe, on the Scioto, and for a considerable distance east and west, the country is a black, rich and deep fluvial alluvion. Here immense natural meadows abound, as far as the eye can reach, with here and there a clump of trees on the higher ground. Among these prairies may be mentioned, among others, those of Upper Sandusky, the Scioto bottoms, (from one to three miles in breadth) the Walnut plains, the Pickaway plains, &c.

In Pickaway county, these prairies produce from 45 to 50 bushels of wheat to the acre, when harrowed in, among Indian corn—they would produce 60 bushels to the acre, if cultivated by Pennsylvanians, in their own state. Of Indian corn, (maize) these plains, produce from 70 to 100 bushels to the acre. It is never hoed; if it were, the yield would be doubled. Two boys of fourteen years of age, with the aid of four horses after the grain is planted, will tend one hundred acres of corn. It is no uncommon thing, for corn to be sold in the field, for twelve and a half cents a bushel. At my own door, I can now purchase it for 20 cents a bushel! and this in a country, where a labouring man gets one dollar a day for his labour! Pork is two dollars and a half a cwt.! For two, or at most for three hundred thousand dollars, a canal might be cut from Sandusky bay, to the Ohio river at Portsmouth, passing by the seat of government for Ohio, and through a country unrivalled for its fertility. The rise and fall between Lake Erie and the Ohio at this point, is less than at any other; the soil is a deep loam; not a rock need be blasted in the whole distance, and stone for locks, where needed, might easily be procured in the adjoining hills. Never failing streams would supply the canal with all the water necessary, and the expense compared with the advantages to be derived from it, are not even worth naming. The money thrown away in one year, and wasted in petty lawsuits before justices of the peace in this state, would complete this canal; and what is needlessly given to our commissioners of counties, would complete it in any two years. And what has been wasted in these ways within ten years past in Ohio would have completed every canal and road which we have mentioned. No wonder we are too poor to undertake any public works, when our money is thrown away, either in gratifying some little private pique, or in pampering up men who hold offices, worse than useless to the people.

In passing to the west, from the portage between the Sandusky and the Scioto, we arrive at the point where it is said a communication may be had between the St. Marys, a principal branch of the Maumee and the Big Miami. This canal need not be more than 30 miles in length

—the country is level, the cutting would not be more than ten feet generally, and it is believed that a supply of water for its use may be had on the summit level. Thirty thousand dollars only, would be wanted for this object, but the St. Marys would need deepening, widening and clearing of obstructions, and there must be a number of locks at the rapids of the Maumee. The whole expense of these and every other expense in making the navigation a good one for boats of six tons burden, from Lake Erie to the big Miami, would not be over \$150,000. The Miami would have to be cleared of mill dams, which injure, I had almost said totally obstruct, the navigation of that noble river. Thus, a communication might be opened between Lake Erie and the fertile Miami country. Produce sufficient to pay for the whole expense of making it, would probably be wafted through it within one year after its completion.

The canal which would connect the Wabash with the Maumee next attracts attention. From Fort Wayne, where the Maumee is formed by the junction of the St. Josephs and the St. Marys, it is twelve miles to the main branch of the Wabash. This portage is mostly a dry prairie, a fluvial alluvion, which needs no blasting of rocks, for there are none. It is a rich, black loam, underlaid with pebbles and sand. Twelve thousand dollars would dig this canal, and the St. Marys, and St. Josephs would forever supply the water on this summit level. The Wabash would want a little widening, perhaps deepening in some places. The Wabash is a large, but gentle river of great width in high water; and the only rapids that I know of are near the new town of Mount Carmel. A canal will, it is believed, soon be cut, and the necessary locks made by the enterprising citizens of the vicinity.

Let us next seek for a communication by a canal, between the waters of the Illinois with those of Lake Michigan.

Illinois river, is formed by the union of three considerable rivers, the Des Plaines, the De Page, and the Kankakee. The Illinois is about 300 miles in length, varying in breadth from 70 yards to one mile. At all seasons it has water enough for boats of considerable burden for the distance of 250 miles from its mouth. There are no rapids, except in the lowest stages of the water. The valley of the river is from three to ten miles in width and is flat and marshy. This river from its gentle current may be considered a canal. Des Plaines rises in the low lands west of Lake Michigan, and has no ripples except at the lowest stages of the water. It is in fact a chain of ponds, affording a good navigation for boats of a small size. At the head of these is a prairie with a pond 5 miles long and about 40 yards in width, affording a communication with Chicago river, partly cut through by boatmen who now cross from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi river. The French and Indians in time of high water cross here. On the prevalence of easterly winds there is a current from the lake to the Des Plaines, which has assisted in cutting a channel that is used by boatmen. Some times the Des Plaines runs into the Chicago. In the dry seasons of the year, the portage between the waters of the Missis-

issippi and those of Michigan is only three miles in length.

A few observations on the several streams already mentioned, as well as some others in this country, will not I hope be deemed superfluous. The rivers putting into Lake Erie, have a bar of sand at their several mouths, which is driven into them, by prevalence of a strong current of air, that comes down the lakes from the northwest. These bars, are generally cleared away by every freshet in the rivers, but the first northwardly storm brings them back again. These observations apply to the Chicago, which however is merely an arm, rather than a river of Lake Michigan; to the Cuyahoga and Grand rivers. It is believed, however, that if piers were extended some distance into the lake, on each side of the ship channel, these obstructions, if not wholly removed would certainly be lessened, so as to enable boats of considerable burden to freely ascend into and go out of the harbours. After we have passed these bars, there are few or no obstructions to the navigation until we ascend to the very points which are the nearest to the navigable waters of the rivers of the Ohio. Here canals must be cut, so that these waters may interlock with each other. On the highest ground between the waters of the lakes and those of the Mississippi, it has already been seen, that such are the geological features of this section of country, that canals may easily be dug through alluvial earth, at a trifling expense. To which we might add, that most of these streams, formerly poured their waters into the Ohio and Mississippi. This observation applies to all of the following ones; the Grand river, the Cuyahoga, the Sandusky, the Maumee, and the Chicago. It is not my intention to state all the facts upon which this remark is predicated, because it would lead me too far from my subject. But the waters which form the heads of the Maumee present such strong proofs of their formerly having been the heads of the Wabash, that no person can doubt the fact, who sees them. The St. Marys and the St. Josephs and all the minor streams run in a direct course for the Wabash, until they turn short round, and form the Maumee. When correct maps, such as are in the office of the surveyor general at Chillicothe are published, every eye may see what I have here stated. The earth between the Wabash and Fort Wayne has been filled in, by the now waters of the Maumee, in the course of ages, and in that way the latter river has been formed. This was easily effected in a country where the descent is but trifling, by the trees, sand and gravel, which were brought down in times of high water. That these waters have run south is evident from many other circumstances—by the wide channels which have been cut by the streams which ran in the Mississippi valley, compared with the narrow ones of those emptying into the valley of the St. Lawrence.

Another fact will not have escaped the notice of the reader, that at the several points, where the waters of these two vallies approach nearest to each other, those of the St. Lawrence are uniformly the highest by at least three feet. This circumstance is of importance too, as it will in every instance be the means of supplying the several canals with a constant supply of

water. How beneficent has Providence been to this highly favoured country! and will not man accept the boon tendered to him?

Near the points of approach in these waters, or rather just above them, the streams have worn for themselves channels very deep into the soft rocks, through which they flow. In the banks of these streams, free stone may be easily procured, suitable for building the locks, bridges and culverts which may be wanted on the canals.

(To be continued.)

Record.

Sixteenth Congress.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

Feb. 22.—The bill making alterations in the sale of public lands, was considered and postponed. Among other provisions, this bill permits land to be sold in less quantities than heretofore, and abolishes credit.

Feb. 23.—A memorial from general Jackson was presented and laid on the table.—Resolutions were adopted to instruct the committee on roads and canals to inquire into the expediency of appropriating \$40,000 in aid of the improvements of the Ohio river, and subscribing for 1000 shares in the Kentucky Ohio Canal Company.

Feb. 25.—The report of the committee of finance, unfavourable to the petition of the Savannah merchants for remission of duties, was taken up and agreed to.

Feb. 28.—The question on receding from the amendments to the Maine bill, returned from the House, being under consideration, it was decided to divide them: the question was taken without debate on receding from the amendment admitting Missouri into the union, and negatived, 23 to 21. The question was then taken, also without debate, on receding from the amendment restricting slavery in Louisiana north of 36½ degrees, and negatived, 33 to 11. The Senate then determined to insist on both amendments, and the secretary was instructed to inform the House.—The bankrupt bill was taken up, and made the order of the day for 6th March.—After some other business, the Senate was about to adjourn, when a message was received from the House of Representatives, stating they had insisted on their disagreement to the amendments to the Maine bill. It was moved that a committee of conference be appointed, and after some debate agreed to, when Mr. Thomas, Mr. Pinkney and Mr. Barbour were elected by ballot.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Feb. 22.—The motion to solicit information on Spanish affairs from the President was adopted, and a committee of three appointed to wait on him.—The House having agreed to a resolution offered by Mr. Lowndes, on the subject of extending the legal provision of relief to the family of commodore Perry, Mr. Randolph rose to offer a motion. He believed it would be very difficult for any member of this House—certainly it was not possible for him—to keep pace with the honourable gentleman from South

Carolina (Mr. Lowndes) in the race of honour and public utility. That gentleman had, by the motion which had just been adopted, anticipated him, in part, in a proposition which he (Mr. R.) had intended on this particular day, for reasons which would suggest themselves to the mind of every one, to offer to the House. When he had this morning heard the tower guns announcing the return of the birthday of Washington, Mr. R. said the thought had come across his mind—in reference to certain proceedings in this House and elsewhere—"this people draw nigh unto me with their lips, and honour me with their mouth, but their hearts are far from me." His purpose, Mr. R. stated, was to make a motion in relation to the wife and children of the late Oliver Hazard Perry, of the U. States navy. It was his opinion, Mr. R. said, whether correct or not, that the country owed more to that man, in its late contest with Great Britain, than to any other whatever, always excepting Isaac Hull—that man who had first broken the *prestige*, the cuirass of British invincibility. He had frequently, Mr. R. said, heard persons of that country speak in terms of admiration of the achievement of captain Hull, in his escape from a fleet of the enemy, in the Constitution frigate—of the admirable seamanship which he had displayed—of his professional skill; but he had never heard any of them speak with cordial applause of his achievement with the Guerriere, that proud frigate of the first class, which had carried her name, in defiance, emblazoned in large letters on her fore-topsail, that the American *picaroons* might beware of His MAJESTY'S ship, and make no mistakes. That was an event on which they were generally silent, or their praise very faint. Mr. R. believed that old England would consent that forty Pakenhams, with all their legions, should have been buried in the alluvial lands of the Mississippi, to take back the single action of the Guerriere; because that action had done more than any thing else to open the eyes of Europe, and dispel the illusion of British supremacy on the ocean. Next in glory to the victory over the Guerriere, was that on Lake Erie, by the gallant Perry; and this Mr. R. said, was not inferior in lustre to any event in the naval history of England, from that of La Hogue, under admiral Russel. One, said Mr. R. has shown us the way to victory with single ships, the other with fleets. Shall we suffer his family to melt up the plate that was given to him by his countrymen, by corporate and legislative bodies, in compliment to his gallantry, to buy bread? He would say no more, but at once offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That provision be made by law for the support of the family of the late Oliver Hazard Perry, esq. of the United States navy, and for the education of his children.

Mr. Lowndes concurred with great cordiality in Mr. R.'s resolution. He felt in its fullest force the sentiment of gratitude to the man who had first taught his country to hope for victory by fleets as well as by single ships; and Mr. L. said it was only because he had supposed that the House would not at this time give its approbation to a proposition such as Mr. Randolph had offered, that he had contented himself with the very inferior one which he had submitted.

Mr. Hazard, of Rhode Island, did not rise to say much on a subject, which he said he could scarcely trust himself to speak on at all. But he rose to offer his thanks to the gentleman from Virginia and the gentleman from South Carolina, in behalf of the name of Perry—to thank them in behalf of the state which gave him birth—to thank them in the name of his amiable widow—to thank them in the name of their common country.

The resolution was adopted; and, on motion of Mr. Randolph, a committee of three was appointed to bring in a bill in pursuance thereto.

The House then considered the amendments to the Maine bill, when Mr. Randolph spoke against that part which excludes slavery from the territories.

Feb. 23.—Mr. Rhea spoke on the same subject.—The question was taken on disagreeing to the union of the Missouri bill with that of Maine, and decided in the affirmative, 93 to 72.—The question was then taken on disagreeing to the details of the Missouri bill, and decided in the affirmative, 102 to 68.—The question finally was taken on the amendment to restrict slavery in the territories, and disagreed to, 159 to 18.—The Missouri bill was now taken up in committee of the whole, and Mr. Edwards, of Connecticut, and Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, advocated their respective opinions.

Feb. 25.—Mr. Ervin, of South Carolina, Mr. Scott, of Miss., Mr. Meigs, of New York, and Mr. Tucker, of Virginia, spoke against the restriction; and Mr. Adams, of Massachusetts, in favour. The question was now called for, and after some debate on the subject of order, it was taken, and Mr. Taylor's restrictive amendment prevailed by a small majority. The committee rose and the House adjourned.

Feb. 26.—The House again went into committee of the whole on this bill, when Mr. Storrs moved an amendment (similar to Mr. Thomas') which he supported and Mr. Randolph opposed.

Feb. 28.—The committee rose at a late hour, and reported the bill to the House.

Feb. 29.—The House passed the bill to a third reading, by a majority of 9. A conference with the Senate was agreed to, and Messrs. Holmes, Taylor, Lowndes, Parker, of Maine, and Kinsey, of N. J., were appointed managers.

PENNSYLVANIA.

SENATE.

Feb. 22.—The bill from the House for the promotion of agriculture and manufactures was passed to a third reading, with amendments.

Feb. 24.—Mr. Raguette, from the committee appointed for that purpose, reported a bill to throw open the auctioneer business to every person who could give security.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Feb. 22.—A resolution was passed to invite a clergyman to preach in the Hall on the 22d, a sermon in honour of the day.—The bill from the Senate, granting \$10,000 to the Savannah sufferers was passed.—Mr. Duane, being indisposed, wrote a letter to the Speaker, requesting the bridge bill to be postponed till next day, which after much opposition was agreed to.

Feb. 22.—Mr. Lehman reported a bill on the subject of bills of exchange.—The committee appointed for that purpose, reported that they

had invited a minister of the gospel, who would preach a sermon at 3 o'clock.—The Pittsburgh manufacturing association bill was passed.—A letter was received from Mr. Duane, requesting further delay, as he was still too much indisposed to attend. A motion to postpone a day was carried after considerable debate.

Feb. 23.—The committee appointed to investigate the official conduct of judge Bollander, reported in his favour.—The bridge bill was debated in its second reading, and passed after rejecting every amendment that was offered. [The reason of this rejection was thought to be, not that the amendments were unwise, but lest the Senate would not accept them, and the bill be lost.]

Feb. 24.—A letter was presented from R. Conyngnam, complaining that his testimony in the case of the governor had been perverted in the report, which after much discussion was withdrawn.—The bridge bill was read the third time and passed, 52 to 43.—The report of the committee in the governor's case being called up, Mr. Randall offered a substitute, ending with resolutions, that the testimony and documents be referred to the people for them to decide on, and that the committee be discharged. A long debate occurred on a motion to postpone the original report, and to print the usual number of copies, which finally prevailed.

Washington, Feb. 28.

We understand that a bankrupt system, of a new cast, has been digested by a judicial character, whose experience has been not a little, and will shortly be submitted to the investigation of the friends of such a measure.

This bill proposes—

I. To incorporate the bankrupt system into the judicial system of the country; to which it properly belongs.

II. To get rid of the machinery of commissioners, and assignees, and substitute for them—

1. A register of bankruptcy, who shall be the common assignee in each district; reserving, however, to creditors the right to take the bankrupt's estate into their own hands when they prefer it, and obliging them to take it after a limited time.

It then proceeds to make provision—

1. To secure the creditor against frauds.

2. To enforce an equal distribution of the bankrupt's effects.

Bankruptcy is provided for, as distinguished into voluntary and involuntary. The rights of a voluntary bankrupt, in the cases specified, are extended to all persons; the liability of an involuntary bankrupt confined to merchants and traders. But an involuntary bankrupt may entitle himself to the rights of the other, by the subsequent fairness of his conduct.

It then concludes with a confirmation of all the discharges under state laws up to the passage of the act, wherever they have been obtained without fraud or concealment.

The system now before Congress provides only for the cases of involuntary bankruptcy.

Those who are unfavourable to a total discharge of the bankrupt will have only to alter one line, in order to substitute a letter of license or exemption from suit for a term of years.

[Nat. Int.]

The attorney general of the United States, having been requested by the House of Representatives to give his opinion on a case before the committee of claims, has declined so to do, on the ground that his duties are by law confined to the following heads:

1. "To prosecute and conduct all suits, in the supreme court, in which the United States shall be concerned.

2. "To give his advice and opinion, upon questions of law, when required by the President of the United States, or when requested by the heads of any of the departments, touching any matters that may concern their departments.

3. "To discharge the duties of a commissioner of the sinking fund.

The mayor of this city, in consequence of the numerous attempts lately to fire the city, has offered a reward of two hundred dollars for the detection and conviction of any incendiary.

Deaths in Philadelphia, from the 12th to the 19th ult.—50. From the 19th to the 26th—41.

Deaths in Baltimore, from the 21st to the 28th ult.—28.

Spain.—Intelligence has been received that 50,000 men of the national army have revolted and blockaded Cadiz; while 10,000 men were marching upon Madrid, to demand from the king and the constitution a government by the cortes. The numbers are probably exaggerated, but the main facts are quite credible, and have inspired the friends of universal liberty with some faint hopes for that degraded country.

Massachusetts.—The legislature has adjourned, having provided for the independence of Maine, if admission shall be granted within two years, and ordered, in case the result is not known by the election day in April, that state officers and the old officers shall be both chosen provisionally, so that either event may be provided for.

APPRENTICES' LIBRARY.

At a meeting of a number of citizens, held at the Carpenters' Hall, on the 28th of February, to consider the propriety of establishing an apprentices' library, after resolving that such an institution would be productive of benefit, the following constitution was adopted; and, on the subsequent evening, the members of the company assembled and elected the subjoined list of officers.

Constitution of the Apprentices' Library Company of Philadelphia. Adopted 2d mo. (February) 28th, 1820.

Believing that many benefits would arise from the establishment of a library of suitable books for the use of apprentices; that it would promote orderly and virtuous habits; diffuse knowledge and a desire for knowledge; improve the scientific skill of our mechanics and manufacturers; increase the benefits of the system of general education, which is now adopted; and advance the prosperity and happiness of the community:

We who subscribe the following constitution, do associate under the title of the Apprentices' Library Company of Philadelphia, for the purpose of establishing a library for the use of the apprentices of the city of Philadelphia and the adjoining districts.

Article 1.—The company shall meet annually, at such time and place as the by-laws may direct, and fifteen members shall constitute a quorum.

Art. 2.—The officers shall be a president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary; a board of managers to consist of twenty-four members, thirteen of whom shall be a quorum to transact business; who shall be chosen annually by ballot.

Art. 3.—The president, or in his absence the vice-president, or in the absence of both, a president pro-tempore shall preside at all meetings, and subscribe all public acts of the company. In all questions (when a ballot is taken excepted) where an equal division of voices happens, he shall have a casting vote, and shall call a special meeting of the company at the request of five members; due notice thereof being given in two newspapers of the city for four days successively.

Art. 4.—The treasurer, before he enters upon the performance of the duties of his office, shall give a bond with sureties for the faithful performance of the same, in such sum as the managers shall require. He shall collect, receive, and keep in trust all monies, owing, paid, and belonging to the company. He shall pay all orders of the company, and of the board of managers, and annually, or oftener if required, lay before the company and the board of managers, a correct statement of the funds.

Art. 5.—The secretary shall keep fair and correct minutes of the proceedings of the company, and preserve all papers and documents entrusted to his care.

Art. 6.—The board of managers shall hold stated meetings at least once in every month, appoint a chairman and secretary, enact rules and regulations for their government, and supply vacancies in their own body. The funds of the company shall be at their disposal for the purchasing of books, and defraying the necessary expenditures of the institution. The library shall consist of books on useful branches of learning, and such other subjects as the managers may deem proper;—carefully excluding every work of an immoral or injurious tendency. These books shall be loaned to such apprentices, and, at the discretion of the managers, to such other young persons of the city of Philadelphia and the adjoining districts, as furnish satisfactory security for their safe and punctual return, and for the payment of such fines as may be incurred, and for whatever loss or injury of books may be sustained. The managers shall appoint a librarian; they shall keep fair and correct minutes of their proceedings, and lay the same, if required, before the company, to which they shall make an annual report, in writing, of their transactions.

Art. 7.—The funds of the company shall be derived from the annual contributions of the members, donations and legacies. The payment by a member at one time of twenty-five dollars, shall entitle him to membership for life.

Art. 8.—After the adoption of this constitution, all applications for membership shall be made to the board of managers, who shall decide upon such application. Three-fourths of the members present shall be required to reject any application. Every person elected by them, upon subscribing to the constitution, and (excepting in the case of life membership) paying one dollar into the treasury, shall be a member of this company. Each member shall pay two dollars annually, for the use of the institution; and any member who shall neglect to pay the same, for two years successively, provided due notice thereof shall have been given, shall forfeit his right of membership.

Art. 9.—The president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary of the company shall be ex officio members of the board of managers.

Art. 10.—No amendment or alteration of this constitution shall be made, except at a meeting of the company, when there shall be at least thirty members present.

President—Horace Binney.

Vice President—Roberts Vaux.

Secretary—Daniel B. Smith.

Treasurer—James Cresson.

Managers—John C. Lowber, Thomas F. Leaming, Matthew C. Ralston, Philip Garret, Robert I. Evans, William Fry, Samuel L. Shober, Samuel B. Morris, Benjamin H. Yarnall, Clement C. Biddle, Philip F. Mayer, Robert M. Lewis, John C. Brown, Richard C. Wood, Abraham Miller, Benjamin Tucker, Thomas Kimber, Charles N. Bancker, Merrit Canby, Jacob Gratz, Lloyd Mifflin, Samuel Sellers, Richard Oakford, John H. Willets.

Apprentices' Library.—The library established in this town for mechanics' apprentices, was opened on Tuesday at the old state-house, with a suitable address by a young gentleman, before his excellency the governor, lieutenant governor and the Mechanic Association. The library already consists of 1500 volumes, and 510 young men have entered their names for the use of books. An elegant bust of John Adams, a copy of Mr. Binns' splendid engraving of the Declaration of Independence, and an elegant frame for the print, have been presented by different gentlemen, as appropriate ornaments for the library room.

[*Bost. Ev. Gaz.*]

Boston.—In a case, *Hopkins v. Norton*, in the court of common pleas, on Thursday, for damages sustained by the plaintiff, a black woman, from a dog owned by the defendant, the whole amount of damages, 100 dollars, was given; the foreman of the jury observing, that damages to double the sum would have been awarded, if laid.

James Cann, of New York, supposed to have been cured last summer by Sculcap, died lately with hydrophobia.

Statistics.

[Arranged for Poulson's American Daily Advertiser.]

STATEMENT OF DEATHS

In the City and Liberties of Philadelphia,
From the first of January, 1819, to the first of January,
1820.—Specifying the Sexes, Ages and Diseases of the
deceased Persons.

Deaths in each Month.	Adults.	Children.	Totals.	AGES.			
				Under	1 year	From	
Jan.	120	72	192			1 to 2	851
Feb.	106	89	195			2 to 5	334
March,	141	118	259			5 to 10	269
April,	117	97	214			10 to 15	121
May,	120	84	204			15 to 20	54
June,	121	138	259			20 to 30	76
July,	122	216	338			30 to 40	345
Aug.	136	296	432			40 to 50	364
Sept.	127	161	288			50 to 60	262
Oct.	103	139	242			60 to 70	171
Nov.	102	152	254			70 to 80	113
Dec.	96	151	247			80 to 90	96
						90 to 100	41
						100 to 110	20
						110 to 120	6
							1
Totals,	1411	1713	3124			Total	3124

*The abovementioned Deaths were caused by the
following Diseases and Casualties.*

Apoplexy,	57	Brought over	2040
Abscess,	12	Gangrene and	} 25
Atrophy,	44	Mortification	
Asthma,	15	Gout,	1
Aphthæ,	2	Hooping Cough,	151
Aneurism,	4	Hives,	80
Angina Pectoris,	13	Hernia,	3
Burns,	16	Hæmorrhage,	11
Consum. of Lungs,	459	Hydrophobia,	2
Convulsions,	201	Inflammation of	} 33
Casualties,	39	the Brain	
Catarrh,	29	— Lungs,	116
Cholic,	13	— Stomach,	17
Cancer,	17	— Bowels,	54
Caries,	5	— Liver,	20
Cholera Morbus,	260	— Kidnies,	3
Decay,	13	— Peritoneum,	7
Drunkenness,	24	Jaundice,	5
Debility,	130	Insanity,	28
Diabetes,	2	Lethargy,	1
Diarrhœa,	66	Locked Jaw,	3
Dysentery,	37	Measles,	108
Dropsy,	131	Old Age,	52
— in the head,	92	Prolapsus, Ani	1
— of the breast,	8	Palsy,	20
Dyspepsia,	7	Pleurisy,	15
Drinking cold water,	4	Rheumatism,	4
Drowned,	25	Still Born,	145
Erysipelas	5	Sore Throat,	27
Eruptions	3	Suicide,	3
Epilepsy,	13	Stone,	3
Fever,	33	Scrofula,	19
— Typhus,	126	Spasm in Stomach,	2
— Bilious,	49	Small Pox (natural)	1
— Malignant,	13	Suffocation,	2
— Intermittent,	6	Spina Bifida,	1
— Remittent,	43	Syphilis,	4
— Inflammatory,	6	Sudden,	33
— Scarlet,	2	Teething,	13
— Nervous,	7	Ulcers,	2
— Hectic,	5	Worms,	11
— Puerperal,	4	Unknown,	58
Carried over	2040	Total,	3124

Of the above, there were:—

Males of 20 years and upwards,	795
Ditto under 20 years,	824
	1619
Females of 20 years and upwards,	616
Ditto under 20 years,	659
	1275
Children, principally under one } year, whose sex is unknown, }	230
Total,	3124

By order of the Board of Health,

JOSEPH PRYOR, Clerk.

Health Office, January 12, 1820.

Since the last annual statement of deaths in this city, about 130 interments have been reported in the burying ground over Schuylkill, near the Market street bridge. This ground, previous to the last session of the legislature, when it was vested in the Board of Health, had no legal owners, and persons buried there were not reported. It will also be observed that 108 deaths have occurred the last year from measles, a disease which did not prevail in 1818.

The sextons of some of the burying grounds within the city, who had been found negligent in making complete returns according to the health law, have had their delinquency noticed by the Board, and their reports have, during the last year, been made more punctually and correctly. These facts will account for the increased number of deaths reported in the present statement.

The city and liberties of Philadelphia are supposed to contain about one hundred and twenty-five thousand inhabitants.

Christenings and burials in London last year: Christened 12,574 males, and 11,726 females.—Buried 9,674 males, and 9,557 females.—Total, 19,228. Being a decrease of 477 burials from the preceding year.

Miscellany.

FROM HUME'S ESSAYS.

On the Delicacy of Taste and Passion.

Some people are subject to a certain *delicacy of passion*, which makes them extremely sensible to all the accidents of life, and gives them a lively joy upon every prosperous event, as well as a piercing grief, when they meet with misfortunes and adversity. Favours and good offices easily engage their friendship; while the smallest injury provokes their resentment. Any honour or mark of distinction elevates them above measure; but they are as sensibly touched with contempt. People of this character have, no doubt, more lively enjoyments, as well as more pungent sorrows, than men of cool and sedate tempers: But, I believe when every thing is balanced, there is no one, who would not rather be

of the latter character, were he entirely master of his own disposition. Good or ill fortune is very little at our disposal: And when a person, that has this sensibility of temper, meets with any misfortune, his sorrow or resentment takes entire possession of him, and deprives him of all relish in the common occurrences of life; the right enjoyment of which forms the chief part of our happiness. Great pleasures are much less frequent than great pains; so that a sensible temper must meet with fewer trials, in the former way than in the latter. Not to mention, that men of such lively passions are apt to be transported beyond all bounds of prudence and discretion, and to take false steps in the conduct of life, which are often irretrievable.

There is a *delicacy of taste* observable in some men, which very much resembles this *delicacy of passion*, and produces the same sensibility to beauty and deformity of every kind, as that does to prosperity and adversity, obligations and injuries. When you present a poem or a picture to a man possessed of this talent, the delicacy of his feeling makes him be sensibly touched with every part of it; nor are the masterly strokes perceived with more exquisite relish and satisfaction, than the negligences or absurdities with disgust and uneasiness. A polite and judicious conversation affords him the highest entertainment; rudeness or impertinence is as great a punishment to him. In short, delicacy of taste has the same effect as delicacy of passion: It enlarges the sphere both of our happiness and misery, and makes us sensible to pains as well as pleasures, which escape the rest of mankind.

I believe, however, every one will agree with me, that, notwithstanding this resemblance, delicacy of taste is as much to be desired and cultivated as delicacy of passion is to be lamented, and to be remedied, if possible. The good or ill accidents of life are very little at our disposal; but we are pretty much masters what books we shall read, what diversions we shall partake of, and what company we shall keep. Philosophers have endeavoured to render happiness entirely independent of every thing external. That degree of perfection is impossible to be *attained*: But every wise man will endeavour to place his happiness on such subjects chiefly as depend upon himself; and *that* is not to be *attained* so much by any other means as by this delicacy of sentiment. When a man is possessed of that talent, he is more happy by what pleases his taste, than by what

gratifies his appetites, and receives more enjoyment from a poem or a piece of reasoning than the most expensive luxury can afford.

Whatever connexion there may be originally between these two species of delicacy, I am persuaded, that nothing is so proper to cure us of this delicacy of passion, as the cultivating of that higher and more refined taste, which enables us to judge of the characters of men, of compositions of genius, and of the productions of the nobler arts. A greater or less relish for those obvious beauties, which strike the senses, depends entirely upon the greater or less sensibility of the temper: But with regard to the sciences and liberal arts, a fine taste is, in some measure, the same with strong sense, or at least depends so much upon it, that they are inseparable. In order to judge aright of a composition of genius, there are so many views to be taken in, so many circumstances to be compared, and such a knowledge of human nature requisite, that no man, who is not possessed of the soundest judgment, will ever make a tolerable critic in such performances. And this is a new reason for cultivating a relish in the liberal arts. Our judgment will strengthen by this exercise: We shall form juster notions of life: Many things, which please or afflict others, will appear to us too frivolous to engage our attention: And we shall lose by degrees that sensibility and delicacy of passion, which is so inconvenient.

But perhaps I have gone too far in saying, that a cultivated taste for the polite arts extinguishes the passions, and renders us indifferent to those objects, which are so fondly pursued by the rest of mankind. On farther reflection, I find, that it rather improves our sensibility for all the tender and agreeable passions; at the same time that it renders the mind incapable of the rougher or more boisterous emotions.

Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes,
Emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros.

For this, I think there may be assigned two very natural reasons. In the *first* place, nothing is so improving to the temper as the study of the beauties, either of poetry, eloquence, music, or painting. They give a certain elegance of sentiment to which the rest of mankind are strangers. The emotions which they excite are soft and tender. They draw off the mind from the hurry of business and interest; cherish reflection; dispose to tranquillity; and produce an agreeable melancholy, which, of all

dispositions of the mind, is the best suited to love and friendship.

In the *second* place, a delicacy of taste is favourable to love and friendship, by confining our choice to few people and making us indifferent to the company and conversation of the greater part of men. You will seldom find, that mere men of the world, whatever strong sense they may be endowed with, are very nice in distinguishing characters, or in marking those insensible differences and gradations, which make one man preferable to another. Any one, that has competent sense is sufficient for their entertainment: They talk to him, of their pleasure and affairs, with the same frankness that they would to another; and finding many, who are fit to supply his place, they never feel any vacancy or want in his absence. But to make use of the allusion of a celebrated French* author, the judgment may be compared to a clock or watch, where the most ordinary machine is sufficient to tell the hours; but the most elaborate alone can point out the minutes and seconds, and distinguish the smallest differences of time. One that has well digested his knowledge both of books and men, has little enjoyment but in the company of a few select companions. He feels too sensibly, how much all the rest of mankind fall short of the notions which he has entertained. And, his affections being thus confined within a narrow circle, no wonder he carries them further, than if they were more general and undistinguished. The gaiety and frolic of a bottle companion improves with him into a solid friendship: And the ardours of a youthful appetite become an elegant passion.

CHATHAM AND BURKE.

Comparison of the eloquence of Lord Chatham and Edmund Burke, from the character of the latter, by Dr. Parr.

Many men, of more talent than erudition, have fancied that they could speak better than they could write; and flattered themselves with a reputation for eloquence which never stood the test of severe and critical examination. Many a speech has been received with infinite applause in the delivery, which when handed about in the prints has appeared poor, languid, and lifeless. Lord Chatham was a great man, a most animated and terrific orator, and eminently endued with the first qualifications of a great statesman; yet as a

speaker, his fame, doubtless from the witchery of his manner, was greater than his power. Like Cromwell, he had that perspicuity of eye, which pried into the inmost recesses of the soul, and detected all the thoughts and impressions, and hopes and fears, of his auditors. He had that too which Cromwell had not; for Cromwell we are told was slow in the conception of his ideas while he spoke, and diffuse and perplexed in the delivery. But in Chatham, when he rose to speak, there was a fervour and vehemence of imagination, a headlong torrent of words, and a power of sound, which deafened and stunned, and confounded his opponents. In the man himself, I well remember, there was a native dignity of form, which commanded reverence and faith; and, by filling his hearers with a holy awe, predisposed them to his purpose. With powers little calculated to instruct or delight, there was a vehemence of contention, and awakening energy of manner, an impassioned ardour, a confident and boastful exultation, which victory only rendered more ferocious and ungovernable. He often rose to dignity in the donation of applause; still oftener blazed to fierceness in the fulmination of invectives; and sometimes, in the violence of altercation, stung with a poignancy of wit peculiarly his own. But take away these showy appendages of eloquence, which are included almost in the very name of Chatham; take away that which in the judgment of Demosthenes was the first, the second, the third qualification of an orator; and which, in Chatham, were displayed as they prevailed in so astonishing a measure, and with such felicity of success; take away the imposing dignity of his presence, the strength and grandeur of his voice, the elaborate vehemence of his gesticulation, worked up, often to extravagance, and better adapted to the Drama than the Senate; take these away, and in those very speeches which were extolled by his auditors as transcending far all praise, you will find nothing scarcely which so forcibly strikes, or sweetly soothed the ear; nothing which by its strength or clearness captivates the judgment; nothing which the intelligent reader in a cool and deliberate hour will approve; or having once read, will eagerly demand again.

Such, I confess, was the giant scale of Chatham's mind, that he might well claim, and would assuredly fill with honour, the highest station to which a subject can aspire. To his other original and illustrious

* MONS. FONTENELLE, *Pluralité des Mondes*, Soir. 6.

qualities, was added that felicity of fortune which fills up the measure of all pre-eminent greatness. In his character as minister, such was the greatness and elevation of his spirit, like Scipio, he could revive expiring ardour, and fill men with a confidence of expectation, which no mortal course of nature ever did, or under any auspices, ever ought to inspire. Those, however, who consider Chatham not as a first rate orator, but as another Demosthenes, are greatly deceived. In Demosthenes, with a dignity which has scarcely been equalled, was combined a sagacity and coolness which can never be surpassed. He who aspires only to be rapid, vehement, and sonorous, without descending to plain narrative, cool statement, close argument, sacrifices reason to passion, and touches on the precincts of a frantic eloquence. It was the lot of Chatham to owe whatever he possessed, to a genius exercised by practice alone. The consequence was natural. With infinite fluency and animation he insured the fate of Galba, and while breathing consuming fire as a speaker, all the force and all the blaze of his eloquence was extinguished upon paper.

Far different is Burke. To wing his flight to the sublime of eloquence, he has called in the labours of the closet. Burke would not that the fame of his powers should be circumscribed within the same poor limits that bound life; nor has he feared, most certainly he has not shunned, that solemn sentence which posterity, 'who extenuate nothing, or set down aught in malice,' will hereafter pronounce upon his genius.

There are many, I know, who, though well convinced that the pen is the instructor of the tongue, and perfectly able to treat any subject upon paper with infinite correctness and art, yet when drawn from the shade of studious retirement into action, are not only incapable of delivering with clearness, what they have very justly conceived, but exhibit the spectacle of absolute helplessness and fatuity. But Burke, though fully satisfied that nothing contributes more to good speaking than good writing, is equally prepared for both. The same powerful mind, the same divine and inextinguishable ardour, which fires him in the Senate, animates him in the solitude of composition; nor need he blush to say of his speeches what Thucydides had affirmed of his elaborate history, 'I give it to the public as an everlasting possession, and not as a contentious instrument of temporary applause.'

There is an unwillingness in the world to show that the same man has excelled in various pursuits; but Burke's compositions, diversified as they are in their nature, yet each excelling in its kind, who does not read with instruction and delight? I have hitherto surveyed the merits of the orator: let us now view him as a critic and a philosopher.

Criticism, which others would have been content to study as they found it, Burke has enlarged by his discoveries, illustrated by his multifarious learning, and treated with all the graces of a style most elegant and refined, yet not polished into insipidity by too curious a care. Often has it been lamented that the language of philosophers is usually so crabbed and uncouth, as to deter readers of taste from perusal of their labours. It fell to Burke, by his purity and grace, to purge off this inveterate rust, and to adapt to the knottiest and the subtlest disquisitions, such a flowing ease, fertility and lustre of style, as the world had never witnessed. With such illustrious proofs of his own powers, he has at once, by his precepts and example, instructed others to excel; for whether he luxuriates in speeches replete with the choicest phraseology and happiest periods, or bends his keen and subtle intelligence on critical disquisition, such is the felicity of his labours, that he at once quickens the sagacity of his readers, while he stores their memory and fertilizes their fancy with invigorating and varied information.

On the morals of a man most conspicuously endued with the more amiable and severe virtues, I hold it needless to descant. The unspotted innocence, the firm integrity of Burke, want no emblazoning; and if he is accustomed to exact a rigorous account of the moral conduct of others, it is justified in one who shuns not the most inquisitorial scrutiny into his own.

I know what unsafe and treacherous ground I tread. Objectors, I am aware, are not wanting, who will exclaim, that I have lavished praise with too prodigal a hand—that I have been hurried away by my love and admiration of the man. I care not. The tribute I have paid him is little to his deserts—and would to God, that this little had come from any one who could more suitably have expanded and adorned it. This, however, I deliberately and steadily affirm—that of all the men who are, or who ever have been eminent for energy and splendour of eloquence, or for skill and grace in composition, there is

not one who, in genius and erudition, in philanthropy or piety, or in any of the qualities of a wise and good man, surpasses Burke.

"EXCURSION."

The following detached passages are from Mr. Wordsworth's "Excursion," a poem which has not been published in this country, and is, therefore, probably new to most of our readers. The lover of nature and the muses, will, I think, find something to gratify his taste. The sympathies of the devotional reader will be aroused by the interesting Wanderer whose "mind was a thanksgiving to the power that made him."

[*Keene Sentinel.*]

Oh, then what soul was his, when on the tops
Of the high mountains, he beheld the sun
Rise up and bathe the world in light—He looked,
Ocean and earth, the solid frame of earth,
And ocean's liquid mass, before him lay
In gladness and deep joy. The clouds were
And in their silent faces did he read [touch'd
Unutterable love. Sound needed none,
Nor any voice of joy; his spirit drank
The spectacle; sensation, soul, and form
All melted into him; they swallow'd up
His animal being; in them did he live,
And by them did he live; they were his life;
In such access of mind, in such high hour
Of visitation from the living God.
Thought was not; in enjoyment it expired;
No thanks he breath'd, he proffer'd no request
Wrapt into still communion that transcends
The imperfect offices of prayer and praise,
His mind was a thanksgiving to the power
That made him; it was blessedness and love!

How beautiful this dome of sky
And the vast hills in fluctuation fix'd
At thy command; how awful! Shall the soul
Human and rational, report of thee, [can,
Even less than thee? Be mute who will, who
Yet I will praise thee with impassioned voice:
My lips that may forget thee in the crowd,
Cannot forget thee here.

Stripp'd as I am of all the golden fruit
Of self esteem; and by the cutting blasts
Of self reproach familiarly assail'd;
I would not yet be of such wint'ry baseness,
But that some leaf of your regard should hang
Upon my naked branches.

One adequate support
For the calamities of mortal life,
Exists: one only—an assur'd belief,
That the procession of our fate, however
Sad or disturb'd, is ordered by a being
Of infinite benevolence and power,
Whose everlasting purposes embrace
All accidents, converting them to good.

But Providence, that gives and takes away,
By his own law, is merciful and just;
Time wants not power to soften all regrets,
And prayer and thought can bring to worst dis-
Due resignation. [tress,

The darts of anguish fix not where the seat
Of suffering hath been thoroughly fortified
By acquiescence in the Will Supreme
For time and for eternity; by faith,
Faith absolute, in God, including hope
And the defence that lies in boundless love
Of his perfection; with habitual dread
Of aught unworthily conceiv'd, endur'd
Impatiently; ill done, or left undone,
To the dishonour of his holy name.
Soul of our souls, and safeguard of the world!
Sustain, thou only canst, the sick of heart,
Restore their languid spirits, and recall
Their lost affections unto Thee and thine!

'Tis by comparison, an easy task
Earth to despise; but to converse with heaven,
This is not easy:—to relinquish all
We have, or hope, of happiness and joy—
And stand in freedom loosen'd from this world
I deem not arduous; but must needs confess
That 'tis a thing impossible to frame
Conceptions equal to the soul's desire;
And the most difficult of tasks to keep
Heights, which the soul is competent to gain.
Man is of dust; etherial hopes are his, [aloft,
Which when they should sustain themselves
Want due consistence; like a pillar of smoke
That with majestic energy from earth
Rises; but having reach'd the thinner air,
Melts and dissolves and is no longer seen.

FIRES.

Probably no country has suffered so much from fires within a short space of time as the United States. The late conflagration at Wilmington, followed by the truly distressing one at Schenectady, and now the dreadful disaster at Savannah, a late one also at Petersburg, together with minor misfortunes of the same kind, unite to create a high interest, and to fix attention as to causes and effects, and which, we trust, may lead to such inquiries as may effectually check the evil hereafter. There is no visitation so awful as that of fire, so appalling in its progress, so distressing in its results; and yet it has not occupied public attention to the extent which it demands. If the progress or prevention of disease has called forth the most active talent, and led to strict municipal regulations, a necessary protection from fire, in its most minute sense, seems also to be demanded. Disease may be checked by caution, by proper remedies—its progress is not so rapid, it is not so alarming, because it is natural; but the terrible disasters incident to fire, are sudden, appalling and destructive. To be raised in the dead of night, and from a deep sleep, by the cry of fire—to see the flames surrounding you—to hear its awful roar and crackling—to see a whole city blazing, and its inhabitants houseless wanderers, without

clothes, without shelter, exposed to the howling wind and nipping frosts—to see those, who a few hours before had laid their heads on their pillows in comfort and affluence, now reduced to misery and penury, requires more fortitude, more resignation, than what usually falls to the lot of man. How then are these evils to be arrested? By *caution*—and *only* caution. The houses in the southern states are mostly built of wood—the cheapness of the materials is the inducement; but it should be recollected, that for durability and safety, that brick or stone is preferable, and a house built with these materials, is ultimately the cheapest, as it certainly is the most safe. It may be argued, that the heat of the weather at the south would render brick or stone insufferable—this impression is erroneous.

In Spain, and on the borders of the Mediterranean, very little wood is used in the construction of houses, and fires are almost unknown—the heat in those countries is, at times, as insupportable as it is in the southern states, yet brick or stone has been pronounced more cool than wood, especially pine, which the sun so dries and heats, that it catches like tinder, and when a city is once in flames there is no saying where it ends; if the wind is high, the burning fragments are carried to a great distance; and whenever they alight, the materials being inflammable, are soon on fire, and the utmost exertions are inadequate to extinguish it, and thus, in a few hours, the most wealthy cities are laid in ruins. Much pains and expense have been bestowed on towns and cities to make them agreeable to the eye; the system must now be reversed. Fires in the southern states have been so frequent and so destructive, that it will be incumbent hereafter, upon the municipal authorities, to prohibit all wooden buildings: and it will be found in the end that sound economy, in addition to common protection, calls for this measure. All houses should be rendered fire proof, by substituting slate or tile roofs for those of shingle, and no stable should be built in the heart of a city, and none without being in every respect fire proof. A very heavy fine should be imposed upon all livery stable keepers, convicted of using candles in hand, instead of a lantern, at any time; no manufactory using combustible materials should be permitted in a city.

A variety of modes present themselves of extinguishing fires, but the most safe is to *prevent them*—this can be done by a little caution; look to your fires and lights,

and let it be the fixed duty of some person to pay attention to them—the most trifling neglect may and has plunged thousands in ruin—and, when an extensive fire occurs, it is felt directly or indirectly over the union. This caution, united to the particular construction of houses and chimney places, will afford permanent security, and prevent that devouring element from impoverishing so many persons.

[*Nat. Adv.*

SLAVERY.

The following article was written in a moment of cool reflection, in the year 1781, and is worth all that can now be said on the consequences which slavery may bring among us.

[*Oracle.*

MR. JEFFERSON'S VIEW OF SLAVERY.—FROM HIS NOTES ON VIRGINIA. QUERY XVII.

The *particular* customs and manners that may happen to be received in that state (Virginia).

It is difficult to determine on the standard by which the manners of a nation may be tried, whether *catholic* or *particular*. It is more difficult for a native to bring to that standard the manners of his own nation, familiarized to him by habit. There must doubtless be an unhappy influence on the manners of *our* people produced by the existence of SLAVERY among us. The whole commerce between master and slave is a *perpetual exercise of the most boisterous passions*, the most *unremitting despotism* on the one part, and *degrading submissions* on the other. Our *children see this*, and learn to *imitate it*; for man is an imitative animal. This quality is the germ of all education in him. From his cradle to his grave he is learning to do what he sees others do. If a parent could find no motive either in his philanthropy or his self-love, for restraining the intemperance of passions towards his slave, it should always be a sufficient one that his child is present. But generally it is not sufficient. *The parent storms, the child looks on, catches the lineaments of wrath, puts on the same airs in the circle of smaller slaves, gives a loose to the worst of passions, and thus nursed, educated, and exercised in tyranny, cannot but be stamped by it with odious peculiarities.* The man must be a prodigy who can retain his manners and morals undepraved by such circumstances. And with *what execration should the statesmen be loaded*, who permitting one half the citizens thus to trample on the rights of the other, transforms those into despots, and

these into enemies, destroys the morals of the one part, and the amor patriæ of the other. For if a slave can have a country in this world, it must be any other in preference to that in which he is born to live and labour for another; in which he must lock up the faculties of his nature, contribute as far as depends on his individual endeavours to the evanishment of the human race, or entail his own miserable condition on the endless generations proceeding from him. With the morals of the people, their industry also is destroyed. For in a warm climate, no man will labour for himself who can make another labour for him. This is so true, that of the proprietors of slaves a very small proportion indeed are ever seen to labour. And *can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep forever: that considering numbers, nature and natural means only, a revolution of the wheel of fortune, an exchange of situation is among possible events: that it may become probable by supernatural interference! The Almighty has no attribute which can take side with us in such a contest. But it is impossible to be temperate and to pursue this subject through the various considerations of policy, of morals, of history natural and civil. We must be contented to hope they will force their way into every one's mind.*

Annual Report of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society.

In presenting their Annual Report to the public, the Society cannot forbear to notice, with feelings of self-complacency, the gradual and permanent augmentation of their funds, and as they believe, the consequent increase of the benefits dispensed to the public, by this institution. With the view of promoting this object, and enlarging the sphere of their usefulness, they again beg leave to draw the attention of the opulent, the farmer, mechanic, apprentice, labourer, and servant, to the terms on which deposits are received, in conformity to the stipulations in their act of incorporation.

The money deposited shall bear an interest at the rate of 4 8-10ths per cent. per annum, and shall be repaid when required, upon two weeks notice, with the interest thereon, to the time of such notice.

No sum less than one dollar shall be received as a deposit, and no interest shall be allowed on any payments, until they amount to the sum

of five dollars, the interest on which will be twenty-four cents per annum, or two cents per calendar month. Every additional sum of five dollars that may be lodged, will bear interest in the same manner. No money shall be drawn out under five dollars, unless to close an account.

Two managers are appointed monthly, to attend at the society's office, No. 5 south Sixth street, on Mondays and Thursdays, from 4 till 7 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of receiving deposits, and repaying such sums to depositors, for which the required notice of two weeks shall have been given.

State of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society, on the 12th day of January, A. D. 1820.

	DR.	CR.
To amount of deposits received from 939 depositors, from 2d December, 1816, (the day on which the institution commenced receiving deposits,) to this day inclusive, . . .	\$106,509 58	
To amount of interest on account of the depositors, to the 1st instant, remaining to their credit,	2,538 66	
To amount of expenses up to the 1st inst. repaid,	250 00	
By amount of deposits returned,		\$41,003 32
By the following investments, viz:		
In mortgages,		40,222 98
In a city loan for paving Thirteenth street		1,669 12
In Fair Mount city loan,		1,600 00
In \$25,075 11 United States' six per cent. stock,		25,075 11
By amount of interest on investments up to the 1st inst. not received,		556 17
By amount of cash in bank, to meet the demands of depositors who have given notice of withdrawal,		574 70
To balance, being a contingent fund	1,403 16	
	<u>\$110,701 40</u>	<u>\$110,701 40</u>

Philadelphia, Jan. 12th, 1820.

Geo. BILLINGTON, Treasurer.

Confirmed.

J. I. VANDERKEMP,
REUBEN HAINES,
CLEMENT C. BIDDLE.

} Committee of
Accounts.

We, the subscribers, auditors appointed by the board of managers of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society, to examine the accounts of the said society, up to the 12th January, 1820, find the above statement of the state of the said society, to be correct.

Witness our hands, January 22, 1820.

W. JONES,
PETER MIERCKEN,
ROBERT SMITH.

The amount of the balances to the credit of the depositors, on the 12th January, including interest to the first of January, 1820, is \$68,044 92.

Of these balances, there are:

- 81 under ten dollars,
- 87 from ten to twenty dollars,
- 154 from twenty to fifty dollars,
- 158 from fifty to one hundred dollars,
- 115 from one hundred to two hundred dollars,
- 83 from two hundred to five hundred dollars,
- 13 above five hundred dollars.

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Note. The accounts that exceed five hundred dollars, consist of those which exceed that sum by the amount of interest that has been added to them, and of accounts which exceeded that amount at the time of the society's becoming incorporated.

Of the above 691 depositors, there are:

- 232 servants.
- 120 widows.
- 74 children, and deposits for them.
- 58 labourers.
- 37 journeymen, mechanics and manufacturers
- 29 single women.
- 22 traders.
- 21 societies.
- 20 executors, guardians, and other trustees.
- 17 mechanics.
- 15 farmers.
- 13 apprentices, or deposits for them.
- 12 clerks.
- 10 waiters.
- 5 artists.
- 4 sailors.
- 2 teachers.

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During the month of January, the deposits amounted to 7,849 dollars and 58 cents, by 54 new depositors, and 86 renewals.

In 2 of	\$500	7 from 50 to 100
3 from 300 to 400		72 10 50
5 200 300		81 under 10
21 100 200		

Of the 54 new depositors:

- 21 are servants.
- 5 widows.
- 5 journeymen mechanics.
- 7 children, and deposits for them.
- 3 farmers.
- 4 clerks.
- 2 trusts.
- 2 societies.
- 1 single woman.
- 1 apprentice.
- 1 trader.
- 1 mechanic.
- 1 labourer.

Printers in and near the city, friendly to the

institution, will please insert the above in their papers.

From Foreign Magazines.

Account of a new Method of making single Microscopes of Glass, proposed and executed by Thomas Sivright, F. R. S. E. &c.—Communicated by the author.

Various methods have at different times been described, by means of which persons of ordinary ingenuity may construct for themselves single microscopes of a very high magnifying power, and possessing a very considerable degree of distinctness.

The most common method is to take up with the point of a wetted wire several small fragments of crown glass, and to hold them in the flame of a candle till they fall down in the form of a small globule. Another method consists in drawing out a thin strip of glass into threads, and holding the extremities of the threads in the flame of a candle till round globules are formed upon them. These globules being carefully detached, are placed between two plates of lead, copper or brass, the fractured part being carefully kept out of the field of view. The method recommended by Mr. Stephen Gray, of making microscopes of drops of water, can be considered in no other light than as an amusing experiment; and the single microscopes made by drops of transparent varnish, upon one or both sides of a plate of glass, as proposed and tried by Dr. Brewster, though they give excellent images, are still deficient both in portability and durability.

The defect of the glass globules formed by the ordinary methods is, that we cannot increase their diameter beyond a very small size; that it is difficult to give them a perfect figure; and that there is considerable trouble in fixing them in the brass or copper after they are made.

The following method recently proposed and executed by Mr. Sivright, is free from the greater part of these defects, and we have no doubt will be considered as a valuable acquisition by those who either cannot afford to purchase expensive microscopes, or who are at such a distance from an optician that they cannot be supplied in any other way.

Take a piece of platinum leaf, about the thickness of tinfoil, and make two or three circular holes in it, from one-twentieth to one-tenth of an inch in diameter, and at the distance of about half an inch from each other. In the holes put pieces of

glass which will stick in them without falling through, and which are thick enough to fill the apertures. When the glass is melted at the flame of a candle with the blowpipe, it forms a lens which adheres strongly to the metal, and the lens is therefore formed and set at the same time. The pieces of glass used for this purpose should have no mark of a diamond or file upon them, as the mark always remains, however strongly they are heated with the blowpipe.

The lenses which were made larger than one-tenth of an inch, were not so good as the rest, and the best were even of a smaller size than one-twentieth. As the lenses thus formed sometimes contain air-bubbles, the best way is to make several, and select those which are freest from faults. An eye or loop, made by bending the extremity of a platinum wire, may be used instead of the platinum leaf.

The reason for using platinum, is, that the glass is more easily and more perfectly melted in this than in other metals, which may perhaps arise from its being a bad conductor of heat, and from its preserving its brightness. As platinum does not oxidate, the glass adheres better to the edges of the hole, and it may be used very thin, as it does not melt with the heat necessary for the complete fusion of the glass.

Mr. Sivright has likewise succeeded in forming what, in so far as we know, was never attempted—plano-convex lenses, by means of fusion. In order to do this, he took a plate of topaz, with a perfectly flat and polished natural surface, which is easily obtained by fracture; and having laid a fragment of glass upon it, he exposed the whole to an intense heat. The upper surface of the glass assumed a spherical surface in virtue of the mutual attraction of its parts, and the lower surface became perfectly flat and highly polished, from its contact with the smooth plate of topaz.

Meteoric Phenomenon, called the *Lantern of Maracaybo*.—This luminous phenomenon is seen every night, on a mountainous and uninhabited spot, on the borders of the river Catatumbo, near its junction with the Julia. Being nearly in the meridian of the opening of the lake of Maracaybo, navigators are guided by it as by a light-house. This light is distinguished at a greater distance than forty leagues. Some have ascribed it to the effects of a thunder storm, or of electrical explosions,

which might take place daily in a pass in the mountains; while others pretend that it is an air volcano. M. Palacies observed it for two years at Merida. Hydrogen gas is disengaged from the ground in the same district: this gas is constantly accumulated in the upper part of the cavern *Del Serrito de Monai*, where it is generally set on fire to surprise travellers. See Humboldt's *Personal Narrative*, vol. iv. p. 254.

The bow of a violin, drawn over the edge of a large drinking glass, produces a delightful liquid note; but drawn rapidly it creates a vibration which usually breaks the glass.

Poetry.

From Poulson's American Daily Advertiser.

TO MR. CROAKER, OF NEW YORK.

I took up little "*Fanny*," t'other day,
And with a deal of pleasure read it through—
And now, dear Sir, I feel concern'd to say,
Just in a friendly manner, *entre nous*,
That tho' 'tis clear it was by genius penn'd,
It seems a thing most truly *without end*.

It is a pretty insect, with a sting
Of much acuteness—and its fluttering shows
That in the hive from whence it first took wing,
There lives more sweetness than the vain
world knows.

You have full long amus'd us with your *bees*,
Now let us have some *honey*, if you please.

And *si vous plait*, I would just recommend,
That you should do more justice to yourself,
And write us something that should have an *end*,
And should not lead you to an *auction shelf*,—
That honoured state, where, *in terrorem*, lay
The rhymesters and ephemera of the day.

Paulding has only wrought himself abuse,
And brought some odium on the country too,
I want *you* to come forward, and produce
Something both worthy of the Muse and you;
And let the transatlantic wits be shown,
Castalian dew's are not for them alone.

Thou hast a soul of melody—its tones
Are often heard in thy erratic flight,
And Fancy ever and anon enthrones
Thy glowing spirit in her bowers of light—
O! there preserve thy reign—in beauty soar,
And, like the sky-lark, thence thy music pour.

Go to thy native glens—thy mountain scenes—
And there seek inspiration—they shall tell,
Where Nature o'er her silent glory leans,
The fragrance and the might of feeling dwell.
There breathe in air thy "native wood-notes
wild,"

And be, what thou may'st be, the Muse's
favour'd child!

February 10.

ROB RAVEN.

Patent Machine Paper of J. & T. Gilpin, Brandywine.

Clark & Raser, Printers.